



PHILIP ANGELIDES
Treasurer
State of California

June 8, 2006

Dear Representative:

I am writing to urge your support for the strong protections for Network Neutrality contained in the Markey Amendment when the House of Representatives meets to vote on the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006 (H.R. 5252).

The Internet is the most dynamic and innovative means of communication and commerce developed in the last fifty years. We need to ensure that the Internet's very nature of open access remains protected. However, the effective duopoly that controls broadband access for consumers, content providers, and applications developers—the largest telecommunications and cable corporations—threatens the very nature of the Internet. The business model they are promoting for the Internet would create a fast lane for those content and application providers able to pay for privileged access and a slow lane for small businesses, start-ups, and grassroots groups.

As Stanford Law School Professor Lawrence Lessig testified in the U.S. Senate in February 2006, "By effectively auctioning off lanes of broadband service, this form of (access) tiering will restrict the opportunity of many to compete in providing new Internet service." (2/7/06) Professor Lessig and Professor Robert W. McChesney reiterated this view today, calling Network Neutrality provisions necessary for continued development of the Internet: "How will this innovation and production thrive if creators must seek permission from a cartel of network owners?" (Washington Post, 6/8/06). The simple answer is that the very dynamism of the Internet would be lost if it becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of the nation's largest cable and telecom corporations.

Open access has been one of the key drivers of the Internet economy over the last ten years. It has been vital to the success of Silicon Valley and the creation of hundreds of thousands of California jobs. We cannot allow the next generation of entrepreneurs, artists, and civic groups to be slowed down by corporations erecting tollbooths on the Internet Superhighway. Continued innovation and access demand protection of Network Neutrality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Angelides", written in a cursive style.

Phil Angelides
California State Treasurer